



## Talking points for SB 2021 Miles – Public Health Services

**Develop a provider type designation for LHD, mandating contractual agreements with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) which assure adequate reimbursement and establishes a set of activities, “Public Health Services” \*, for reimbursement.**

- a. LHDs have experienced success as direct providers for Medicaid, however, there are significant barriers to participate as part of MCO provider networks.
- b. HHSC should establish a designated provider type for LHDs. Our experience, has shown that even when services are covered by insurance, high risks populations continue to seek access and services through LHDs. As an example, HHD provides concentrated blood lead level screening to many who have not been previously tested, even though it is outlined as a mandatory primary care activity.
- c. Many populations based LHD activities have regulation and oversight by governmental agencies (federal and state), e.g. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assuring quality and standard practice.
- d. Other providers have received similar designation. Federally Qualified Health Centers are recognized as “Significant Traditional Providers” (STP). HHSC provides this designation, however, it is limited to primary care services. HHSC has established provisions in contracts that require MCOs’ to offer STP contractors the opportunity to be part of the MCO provider network with less burden.
- e. In addition to recognizing LHD as a provider type, specific services that maintain the health and safety of the public should be considered. “Public Health Services” (both clinical and enhanced services) that LHDs deliver. Special provisions have been made to mandate coverage of certain activities by HHSC to be covered by MCOs such as Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women. (8.2.2.11 Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women)
  - i. \* “Public health services” are designed to prevent higher cost interventions, address and promote public health and safety and assure population level health improvements across the state. Services include, but are not limited to:
    1. Tuberculosis identification, diagnosis and treatment
    2. Sexually Transmitted Diseases identification, diagnosis and treatment\
    3. Immunization (Clinical Services/Administration)
    4. Dental care
    5. Chronic disease (screening, monitoring and self-management)
    6. Environmental Health Services
    7. Care Transition programs
    8. School and community-based programming (Vision services, etc.)
    9. Enhanced services (Care Coordination, Telehealth, Home visitation, Reminder Recall, Health Education, Provider Technical Assistance, Super utilizer services)